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Cartoons for the Year 1901.

(From "PUNCH.")

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With an Historical Preface

by

HENRY W. LUCY.

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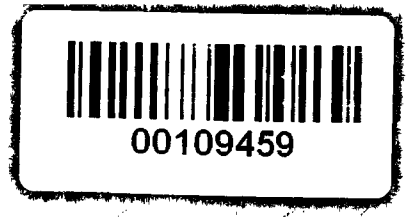

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THE STORY OF THE YEAR.

TOLD BY TOBY, M.P.

A CONCATENATION of circumstances on the threshold of 1901 sufficed to make it unique in British annals. The first year of a new century, it welcomed a new King to the Throne and witnessed the opening session of a new Parliament.

In times not remote the position of affairs consequent on the death of a Sovereign would have been aggravated by the necessity of a General Election. Under the statute of 1867, the Parliament of Queen Victoria was and remained the first Parliament of King Edward the Seventh. Members still new to Westminster enjoyed the distinction of twice within the space of two months taking the oath of allegiance to two Sovereigns in succession.

As far as Parliament is concerned there was a swiftness that almost took away the breath in hurrying King Edward the Seventh on to the Throne. It seemed to be done almost in the pause that midway breaks the exclamation "The Queen is dead. Long live the King!" In the late autumn of the previous year there were ominous rumours touching the health of Queen Victoria. They had passed away, were almost forgotten, when, midway in January, a startling bulletin made its appearance in the newspapers. On Monday, the 20th January, the end of a long and illustrious life was ebbing at Osborne. On Tuesday all was over. Members of the House of Commons learnt at breakfast on Wednesday that Parliament was summoned to meet that very day. At one of her latest councils Queen Victoria signed a mandate summoning Parliament to meet on the 14th February. Arrangements made on this understanding rendered it impossible for all members to be in their places for the opening of the new session on the 23rd January. Nevertheless, when the Speaker, clad in deep mourning, with solemn step walked up the floor of the House, there was a surprisingly large muster upstanding to receive him.

So closely were things run that up to within ten minutes of the hour of meeting there was dubiety as to the style of the Sovereign to whom allegiance was to be sworn. Under which King, Albert the First, or Edward the Seventh?

oath was prepared and printed on a dozen forms, a blank being left to fill in the name of the King. From half-past three on this memorable Wednesday afternoon, to ten minutes to four, a perturbed figure was observed pacing the Inner Lobby of the House of Commons. It was the Clerk of the Public Bill Office, wondering whether he would have to fill in the blank with Albert or Edward. His anxiety was relieved by the arrival of a messenger from St. James's Palace, and he hurried off to complete the formula of the oath presently to be handed to the members. To every member other than the Privy Councillors who, gathered in the Banqueting Hall at St. James's Palace, heard the King declare in favour of the name Edward, "which has been borne by six of my ancestors," the first news came from the Speaker, when, rising from the Chair, he called upon members to take the oath of allegiance to His Majesty King Edward the Seventh.

There was a low murmur of pleasure at the announcement. Rumour was current that the Queen, designing to perpetuate the memory of her ever-loved Consort, had enjoined the Prince of Wales to take the name of Albert when he succeeded to the Monarch's estate. His Majesty's explanation to the Privy Council of the reasons which guided his choice was marked by his accustomed tact. He must have been aware of the popular desire that he should carry forward through history the name not least illustrious in the roll of English Kings. Possibly he had in his mind his revered mother's desire that the name of Albert should be endowed with Royal state. "I do not under-value the name of Albert," the new King said, addressing his first Privy Council, "which I inherit from my ever-to-be-lamented great and wise father, who by universal consent is, I think, deservedly known by the name Albert the Good. But I desire that his name shall stand alone."

Therefore Lords and Commons swore to be faithful and to bear true allegiance to His Majesty King Edward the Seventh, his heirs and successors according to law. So help them God.

The funeral of Queen Victoria followed fast on the swearing in of Parliament. It proved to be one of the most striking episodes in a memorable personal history. It was fitly ordered that the end should come at Osborne It might have befallen at Windsor, or even Balmoral. Death calling for his sister monarch in her smaller island home made possible the appropriate pageant of a naval guard of honour escorting the remains across the Solent. The muster of British men-of-war was worthy of an occasion when the last honours were paid to the Mistress of the Seas. In supplement all the navies of the world were represented, presenting a spectacle the like of which could be seen only in British waters. On land the spectacle was not less imposing. All places of business being closed in deference to the day of mourning, the multitude of London packed itself along the line of procession of the khaki-coloured gun-carriage on which was laid the coffin. It was meet that a Queen loved and reverenced as Victoria was should be followed to her grave by her own people. What was notable in the procession moving through the streets of London towards the

setting sun, was the number of Royal personages among the company of mourners. Whilst every nation of the earth was represented by a distinguished emissary, the Emperor of Germany, the King of Greece, the King of Portugal, and the King of the Belgians rode in the funeral *cortége*.

From the outset King Edward won golden opinions, alike by his private as by his public acts. He seemed to forget nothing, and whatever he said or did was well done. In his public speeches or written communications the high note struck in his brief address to the Privy Council on the day of his accession was maintained. Particularly happy was his personal message to the Army and Navy. His speech to the Crown Prince of Germany, on investing him with the Order of the Garter, was eloquent in its simplicity and sincerity. Therein, as in his address to the Army and Navy, he, as far as possible to a reigning Sovereign, stood in the background. Anything said or done was avowedly under the inspiration of "my beloved mother," a recurrent note that struck home to the hearts of the people.

Early in his reign, His Majesty had to decide upon a delicate subject. Whilst Queen Victoria was still alive arrangements were completed for a journey through the Colonies to be taken by the Duke of York and his Duchess. Queen Victoria dead and buried, the Duke of York was Heir-Apparent. Beyond question of the propriety of making a triumphal tour before the days of mourning were fulfilled, was that of the prudence of subjecting so precious a life to the perils of a far journey by sea and land. The King, taking into account the expectation raised throughout the Colonies, the forwardness of preparations made to receive the Duke and Duchess, and the disappointment that would follow an abandonment of the project, determined that the journey should go forward. Accordingly, on the 16th March, the Duke and Duchess set forth on "the magic carpet," that was to bear them through Australia, carry them through Canada, "round the world and home again," and deliver them into the charge of Father Neptune, who triumphantly landed them on the English shore amid the plaudits of the people. The King celebrated the return of his son and heir by investing him with the ancient title of Prince of Wales, the Red Dragon of the Principality being for the first time added to the achievement of the Prince.

Within a fortnight of the announcement in the "Gazette" of cessation of public mourning for Queen Victoria, came another proclamation ordering mourning for the late Queen's eldest daughter. Unlike the death of the Queen, the passing away of the English Princess Royal did not strike a note of surprise. In truth, the contingency had hung like a pall over the London season. That the Empress of Germany should after a long interval have succumbed to the same malady that cut off her husband in his prime is a notable coincidence.

Whilst the Royal families of Germany and England were drawn closer by this renewed sorrow, it cannot be said that the touch of nature softened the acerbity of the German people towards their English kinsmen. One of the features of the year limned in MR. PUNCH'S week-by-week Picture Gallery is the hostile attitude of Continental

countries, notably Germany, towards innocent Albion. Paris and Berlin have vied with each other in presenting portraits of John Bull atrociously out of drawing. In the late autumn a remark adventured by Mr. Chamberlain asserting that the conduct of the war in the Transvaal was merciful towards the vanquished nation by comparison with the action of the German soldiery towards the franc-tireurs after Sedan, drew down a storm of angry remonstrance. Whilst Lord Salisbury in his speech at the Guildhall, on Lord Mayor's Day, was congratulating the country on having found "such a kindly feeling and such a correct attitude on the part of all the Great Powers," effigies of his distinguished colleague, the Colonial Secretary, were being publicly burnt in Germany.

Against this demonstration of ill-feeling may be set the increasing warmth of affection which more closely links the Colonies with the mother-country. This demonstration, growing directly out of the war in the Transvaal, by its far-reaching, permanent effect, does much to compensate for the loss in blood and money that has attended that long-drawn-out tragedy.

A variation on the unfriendly attitude towards England of Continental nations is found in the bearing of the United States. In this case the Governments and the vast majority of the peoples are at one. The friendly interest taken by Americans in the affairs of this country is even assuming the direction of a desire to acquire a controlling interest in our industrial pursuits. They have bought our ships, have completed arrangements for electrifying our Underground Railway, and have opened negotiations for acquiring some acres of the most valuable building land in London. The situation is happily summed up in the cartoon representing the startled John Bull behind his counter greeting Master Jonathan, who is going a-shopping: "Now, my little man," asks the shopkeeper, "what can I do for you?" "Wal," says Master Jonathan, with a ship of the Leyland Line tucked under one arm, and an engine of the Metropolitan Railway under another, "guess I'll buy the whole store!"

The course of the war as it has run through the year is faithfully and sharply indicated by the first and last cartoons of the year. The first, dated January 2nd, is specially interesting, inasmuch as it is the last work contributed to the pages of PUNCH by his distinguished and much-loved servant, John Tenniel. It represents Father Time holding the New Year babe in one arm, whilst with uplifted right hand he attempts to arrest the chariot of Bellona. Behind stands the figure of Peace in attitude of entreaty. The sequel appears in the last cartoon of the year, from the pencil of Mr. Linley Sambourne, depicting Father Christmas visiting a camp of British soldiers still fighting in the Transvaal the battle of their country. The quotation from Martin Chuzzlewit, put into the mouth of Private Mark Tapley, summarises the attitude, not only of the soldier in the field, but of the British public at home. "Do better! To be sure we will. We shall all do better. What we've got to do is to keep up our spirits. We shall all come right in the end, never fear."

That is the right spirit in which to face unexpected and accumulated

difficulty. All the same it has been a heart-breaking business. When the year opened the war, confidently expected to have reached its conclusion twelve months earlier, was proceeding with undiminished vigour. The War Office were almost as busy in the way of preparation as they were the week after the ultimatum was flashed across the sea by Mr. Kruger. Troops were being hastily embarked for the Cape. A batch of five thousand Yeomen were being raised, and appeals were made to Volunteers to step into the fighting line. The patriotism of the Colonies was stirred afresh, and there was no falling off in the response. The same spirit, surmounting disappointment prevailed at home. At this time, being well advanced into the second year of the war, there was no misconception of the life that awaited the soldier in South Africa. Fifteen months earlier the expedition was regarded in the light of a picnic, with pleasant rendezvous at Pretoria. In these dawning days of the new year there was scarcely a home in the mother-country or the Colonies unfamiliar with the hourly danger, the unrelieved misery, of a soldier's life on the march or in camp. Nevertheless, the eagerness to rally round the colours was not less bubbling in January, 1901, than it had been in the autumn of 1899.

This spirit was reflected in the mind of the staid citizen who dwelt at home and earned money to pay the cost of the war. There was no flinching from the resolve that the quarrel should be fought out to the end, however bitter, that there should be effected a settlement rendering impossible recurrence of what had come to pass in South Africa during the preceding five years. There was, naturally, criticism of the administration of the war and some impatience with its evident blunders. Looking back, it will be noted with pleased marvel how restrained was that criticism, how boundless the patience of the people. At the end of the financial year the tax-payer, in addition to sacrifices already made, was faced with the necessity of meeting a deficit of fifty-five millions sterling. It was a hard lot; but he did not sit down, whine and rage or cry aloud *Nous sommes trahis*. The situation of the hour is faithfully rendered in the cartoon of April 24th, where Master John Bull is shown dropping another contribution into the penny-in-the-slot machine that promises accomplishment of Peace. "I've put a lot of pennies into the machine," he says, "and I haven't got anything out. But I am going on till I do."

There was swift ebullition of anger when it was suspected that the Government, having learned nothing, withheld adequate supplies of men and horses from Lord Kitchener. There was also bitter memory of the reply made to Canada in October, 1899, when that gallant Colony offered detachments of mounted troops to cope with the mobility of the Boers. "Mounted men not wanted. Send infantry." There was even angrier outburst when, owing to traditional red tapeism at the War Office, Yeomen who had given up everything to go out and fight for their country were unable at the termination of their services to obtain their pay. But, on the whole, never in history have a Government in time of war been so gently treated as has the one responsible for the conduct of the campaign in South Africa.

The re-construction of the Ministry following the General Election, ostensibly decreed because the war was "over," involved the transference of Lord Lansdowne to the Foreign Office and the succession of Mr. Brodrick to the War Office. Fifteen months' experience in the field demonstrated amongst other things the urgent necessity of reform of the Army system. This Mr. Brodrick undertook. One of his earliest acts in his new ministerial office was the appointment of a new departmental Committee of Enquiry. What the public more thoroughly trusted was the collaboration of Lord Roberts, who, returning from the war, was appointed Commander-in-Chief. It was recognised that "Bobs" needed no Committee of Enquiry. Since, forty-nine years ago last February, he sailed for India the proud possessor of a commission as Lieutenant in the Bengal Artillery in the service of the Hon. East India Company, he had been on the spot enquiring for himself. He knew exactly what was required to make the British Army an effective weapon of offence and defence. In South Africa he had learned afresh wherein the system lacks essentials.

Unhappily, sanguine hope of practical results from the operation of the new broom at the War Office was doomed to disappointment. Mark of haste into which the Secretary of State rushed to his task was testified at the outset. His scheme of Army Reform, as explained to the House of Commons, was in a considerable measure based upon an arrangement whereby a large number of men would be relieved from garrisoning coaling stations. Mr. Brodrick announced that, hereafter, that duty would be undertaken by the Navy. It turned out that the Admiralty had never been consulted on the matter, and, learning of the intention from Mr. Brodrick's speech in the House of Commons, flatly declined to undertake the duty.

More serious still were the consequences that followed on the disclosure of the names of the Commanders of the three Army Corps, in time of peace to be quartered at home, ready on outbreak of war to go anywhere and do anything. The most applauded portion of Mr. Brodrick's plan, as described in his House of Commons speech, was that the command of these corps should be given to men who would accompany them on active service in time of war. Some months later the public learned with dismay that in the case of each of the corps this wholesome principle had been abandoned.

On the 2nd January, MR. PUNCH welcoming home Lord Roberts exclaimed, "Well done indeed, Sir. You have had a tough job in South Africa, but Heaven help you when you go into the War Office." Nine months later, at the end of November, the story is taken up and illuminated from a fresh quarter. Mary Ann, more or less in charge of the perambulator, meets a friend in uniform and enquires, "When are they going to start this Army reform they talk such a lot about?" "Why, bless your 'art," responds Tommy Atkins, pointing to the new forage cap solemnly distributed amongst the Guards, "it's all done. Look at our new cap."

In home politics His Majesty's Government have had a free hand consequent

on the discord that rent the Opposition on the subject of the justice of the war and the desirability of continuing it. Early in the Parliamentary session matters on the Front Opposition Bench in the House of Commons reached a crisis which induced the nominal leader of the party to demand a vote of confidence. Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman having taken part in a dinner at which pro-Boer sentiments prevailed, what is known as the Imperialistic section of the Liberal party devised a counterblast in the form of a dinner given to Mr. Asquith. Straightway was developed a condition of things described as "war to the knife and fork." A meeting of the party was held at the Reform Club, where reconciliation was officially proclaimed. But the process was artificial and the practical effect *nil.* The situation is happily and accurately described in the cartoon of the 17th July, where Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, standing before a cheval glass, with vigorous pull gets his coat to present a united front, all unconscious that the garment is split down the back. Which thing is an allegory, the coat representing the Liberal party.

The close of the year saw the rent widened rather than narrowed. With significant persistence the nation looked to Lord Rosebery to quit the lonely furrow he prided himself on ploughing and lead the belated party. For a long time he was coy. His attitude is described in the cartoon of July 24th, where, standing on the steps of a bathing-machine completing his toilet, he contemplates the half-drowned Liberal party. "I see you are in difficulties, Madam," he says, as he fastens his necktie; "for myself I shall not voluntarily enter the water, but I will give you a few elementary hints on the natatory art." Four months later he surprised the world and created an unparalleled state of interest by publishing long notice of his intention to re-enter the political arena. "I feel," he wrote from Mentmore in the early days of November, "that at a crisis in the fortune of the country, which I am persuaded is grave and daily increasing in gravity, I should put my views into the common stock." This, as presaging "the return of the little Minister," created a profound sensation. But the announcement was received with mixed feelings by the Elders.

Time was when the Theatre Royal, Westminster, was safely counted upon to exceed in public interest any other place of entertainment. Through the year it has been deadly dull. The overwhelming majority at the back of the Government, combined with divided counsels on the Front Opposition Bench, acted as a wet blanket on private enterprise or party manœuvring. The Irish members, under the leadership of Mr. John Redmond, have done their best to revive ancient glories. One night they succeeded to the extent that Mr. Flavin and some of his compatriots were carried out kicking. The occasion was made memorable in Parliamentary history by the fact that, for the first time since Cromwell's day, the police were called in—just as if the Irish gentlemen were operating in the public-house instead of within the sacred precincts of the Palace of Westminster.

The outbreak was an incident in a systematic and deliberate attempt

to degrade the House of Commons, a purpose openly avowed by Mr. Redmond and his colleagues. Like the Irish carman famed in history, his countrymen "saved a trot for the avenue." Successful through the session in obstructing Supply they intended, when, the last stage reached, the guillotine was invoked to cut off idle talk, to spend an indefinite number of hours in dividing on successive votes. Mr. Balfour trumped this trick by carrying a Sessional Order whereby delayed votes were submitted in batches. That was but a temporary victory, achieved by an undesirable though necessary process. An important and far-reaching result of the Irish campaign was to carry conviction to the mind of Ministers that if they really mean to carry on business in the House of Commons they must thoroughly reform procedure devised for other times and other manners.

Efforts at legislation were made in different directions, but in the disorganised, listless state of the House of Commons they did not come to much. The Education Bill, after considerable debate, was withdrawn, a single clause dealing with what is known as the Cockerton Case being salved and, embodied in a separate Bill, was added to the Statute Book. Approach to the Budget, involving provision for expenditure of over 120 millions, succeeded in stirring the sluggish pool of public interest. The cartoons in February, April, and May testify to this exception. Sir Michael Hicks-Beach was faced by a deficit of fifty-five millions. How would he meet it? The secret was well kept, but on April 17th the prescience of MR. PUNCH forecast an increase in the sugar duty. Loudest protest was made against the shilling a ton export duty levied on coal. Members of the House of Commons, who through the past winter had paid coal bills augmented in price from 50 to 100 per cent., looked on with cynical indifference whilst millionaire coal-owners bewailed their inability to carry the impost and foretold the downfall of the Empire, dating from its exaction.

The enactment of the Federation of Australia was made the occasion of some incidents not the less interesting because Mr. Chamberlain was personally concerned. But the Bill passed unanimously, amid redundant testimony of warmth of friendly feeling engendered by the eagerness with which our kin beyond the sea rallied round the old flag in time of difficulty. This sentiment found formal and significant expression in a Bill approving alteration in the Royal title, with the object of directly recognising the Colonies as component parts of the Empire.

The House of Lords has reflected the dulness of the Commons. There was a spurt early in the session when Lord Wolseley made what he was careful to explain was not an attack on the War Office, and when Lord Lansdowne turned and rent him. Lord Rosebery has once or twice contributed to the interest of the sittings. On one occasion he thumped the table so hard that the Lord Chancellor, in the course of his reply, was brought within a syllable of swearing. Happily for the reputation of the Woolsack, Lord Halsbury retained sufficient command over himself to leave the word that leapt to his lips represented by a blank. But its identity was strongly suspected.

Apart from South Africa, foreign affairs have, on the whole, been quiet. In

September the world was shocked by news of a fresh act of anarchy, the victim in this case being the blameless President of the United States, Mr. McKinley. For the third time within the history of a comparatively young nation, the civilised world anxiously watched by the bedside of a murdered President. The friendly relations of the two countries, already noted, led in the closing months of the year to the signing of a Treaty that amicably settled the long-vexed question of the construction of a Canal by way of the Isthmus of Panama. The New Year dawns with promise of realisation of another hope expressed in the cartoon of the second number of the year. The benevolent codfish linking fins and arms with the two fisher-girls of France and England may live to congratulate them on accomplishment of his disinterested desire. "Look here, my dears," he said, almost a year ago, "do discuss me in a friendly way. It would give me *such* pleasure to be the means of bringing you together." Encouraged by the success of the Hay-Pauncefort Treaty, British and American statesmen are turning their thoughts in the direction of also settling the Newfoundland Fishing tangle.

After characteristic haggling, protracted process of advancing and retiring, China made up her mind to pay the indemnity exacted as the fine for the outbreaks of last year, and the allied troops were withdrawn. The situation was complicated by some ambiguity in the attitude of Russia. Japan looked angrily and suspiciously on threatened advance of the Russian Bear from Manchuria to Korea. European Powers were not quite sure that Russia, having through force of circumstances gained a fresh footing in China, was the kind of person likely voluntarily to withdraw. At the same time, no disposition was shown by any one Power to bell the bear. Happily no friction arose, and the allied Powers departed in peace, leaving China much the poorer for their visit.

In Affghanistan there was some anxiety consequent on the death of England's old and faithful friend Abduraman. What attitude would the new Ameer assume? Would he, indeed, be left at liberty to make selection? or would successful revolt on the part of the restless Affghans drive him from the steps of the throne? He took the earliest opportunity of declaring that he would march in the ways trodden by his father.

The Sultan, after a period of comparative quietude, got into trouble with France. His attitude at the beginning and end of the episode is aptly shown in the cartoons of the 4th September and the 13th November. At the earlier date, the French Minister having been withdrawn from Constantinople, his Imperial Majesty smoked at his ease, comforting himself with the reflection that as the Great Powers acting together did not do very much in China, there was no need to worry about the threat of a single one of them. The satisfaction demanded being withheld, a French squadron suddenly occupied Mitylene. Whereupon the Sultan caved in. "I don't like solos," he said, in vain trying to stop his ears against the strain of the Mitylene march played on the French horn. "Give me the good old-fashioned European concert."

Minor miscellaneous topics illuminated in MR. PUNCH'S weekly show of

the year, are the backwardness of British enterprise abroad typified by the "Un" commercial Traveller; the disappointing conclusion of the Telephone deal; apprehension of result of French experiments with the sub-marine warship; the failure of the Belleville boiler; the marriage of the Queen of Holland; and last, but not least in the measure of public interest excited, the dinner given to Sir John Tenniel on his retirement from PUNCH, a banquet at which Mr. Arthur Balfour presided, the hosts including the foremost men in English life.

These matters, and others touching all points of human interests, are they not pencilled in the weekly chronicles of MR. PUNCH, here gathered and bound up in convenient form?

HENRY W. LUCY.

REFORM CLUB,

New Year's Eve, 1901.

[The New Year, it was ho

peal.

sing of peace to South Africa.—*Jan. 2.*]

Welcome Home!

Mr. Punch (to Lord Roberts). "Well done, indeed, Sir! You have had a rough job in South Africa; but Heaven help you when you get into the War Office!"

[Lord Roberts, who in the previous November had been appointed Commander-in-Chief, had arrived home to assume the duties of his office.—*Jan. 2.*]

The Benevolent Codfish.

NEWFOUNDLAND TALKING COD (ADDRESSING THE TWO FISHER-GIRLS FRANCE AND ENGLAND). "Look here, my dears, do discuss me in a friendly way. It would give me SUCH pleasure to be the means of bringing you both together!"

[The cession of British Gambia had been suggested as an equivalent for the surrender of the French coast fishery claims.—*Jan.* 9.]

Urgent.

GENERAL LORD KITCHENER (TO MR. JOHN BULL). "If you want this business quickly finished you MUST give me more horses, and MEN to ride them."

[Lord Kitchener had again strongly insisted on the necessity for an efficiently mounted, mobile force.—*Jan. 9.*]

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"Childlike and Bland."

CHINESE OFFICIAL. "Well, the Empress is away at present; but your accounts shall be forwarded, gentlemen, and no doubt Her Imperial Majesty will attend to them at her—ahem!—EARLIEST CONVENIENCE!"

[The settlement of the Indemnity question appeared likely to cause trouble to the European Powers.—*Jan. 16.*]

A Pleasure to Come.

PROVINCIAL MAYORS. "We trust your Lordship will name an early day for accepting the Freedom of our Ancient Borough."
LORD ROBERTS. "Thanks, Gentlemen; but I am waiting for the Freedom of South Africa."

[Lord Roberts had written to the Lord Mayor postponing, for the above reason, his visit to the City.—*Jan. 23.*]

9

"Rousseau's Dream."

NEPTUNE. "Look out, my dear, you're mistress ON the sea; but there's a neighbour of yours that's trying to be mistress UNDER it."

BRITANNIA. "All right, Father Nep.—I'm not asleep."

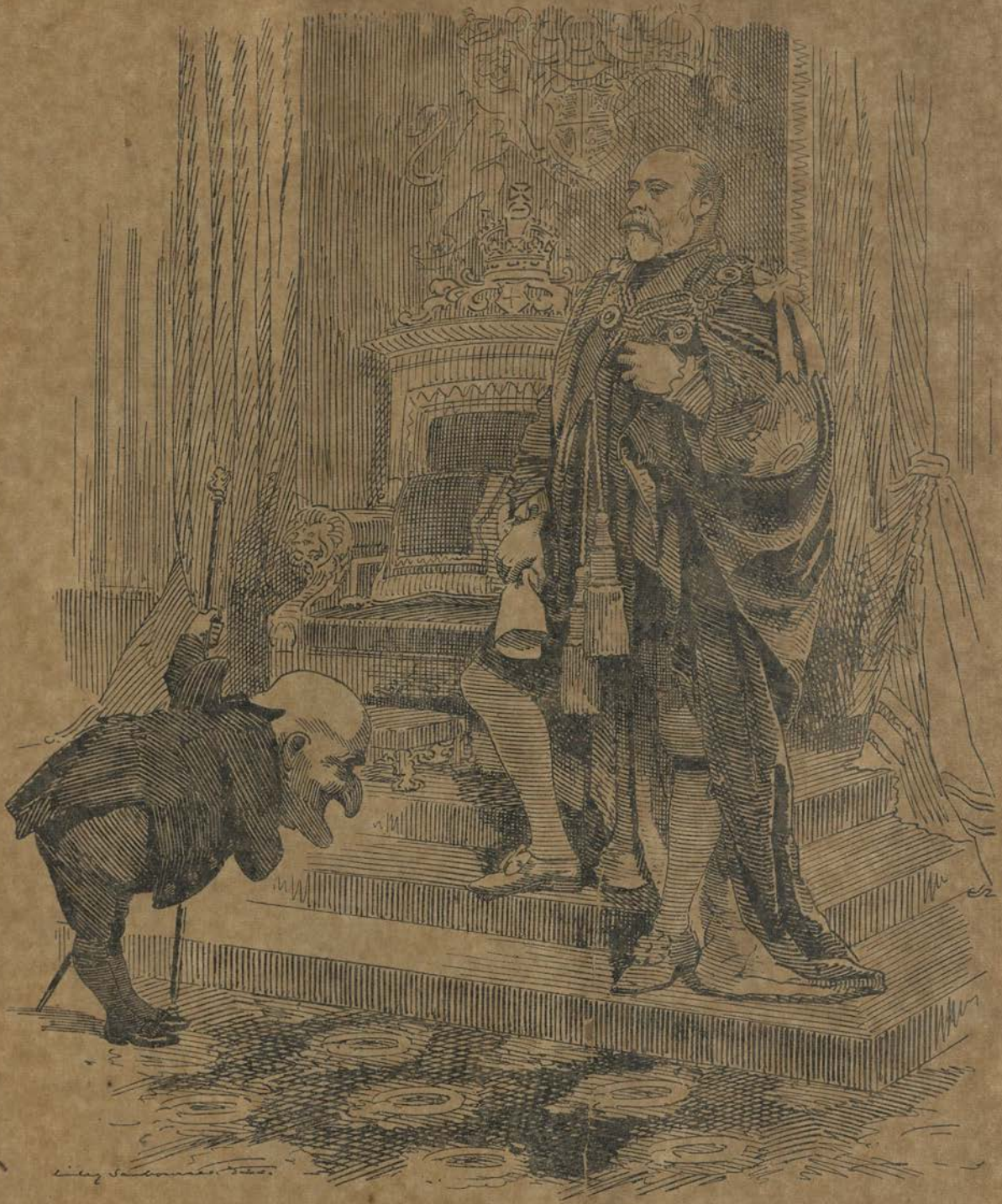
[M. Rousseau had expressed an opinion that eventually all difficulties of submarine navigation would be overcome.—*Jan. 23.*]

"Requiescat!"

[Her Majesty died at Osborne House on the 22nd of January—Jan. 22.]

The Roll of Great Monarchs.

[The death of Queen Victoria added one more name to the list of illustrious Rulers.—*Jan. 30.*]



God Save the King!

Mr. Punch. "Your Coronation awaits your Majesty's pleasure, but you are already crowned in the hearts of your people."

[*Feb. 6.*]

14

A Good Start.

JOHN BULL (TO WILHELMINA QUEEN OF HOLLAND AND HER CONSORT DUKE HEINRICH). "The best of luck to you, my dears! You make a charming couple!"

[Queen Wilhelmina of Holland was married to Duke Henry of Mecklenburg-Schwerin on February 7th. *Feb. 6.*]

Their Majesties!

[The King, accompanied by Queen Alexandra, opened Parliament in full state on February 14th.—*Feb. 18.*]

16

"One Who Knows."

THE GERMAN EMPEROR (MEDITATIVELY). "Now that I'm a British Field-Marshal, I wonder if I might venture to give them a hint or two on 're-organisation'? And I MIGHT suggest that their officers should always be in uniform—as MINE are."

[The German Emperor, it was rumoured, was highly gratified by his appointment as Field Marshal in the British Army.—*Feb. 13.*]

Difficult Steering.

LORD SALISBURY (TO ARTHUR BALFOUR). "Hang these 'improvements,' Arthur! Do you think we shall get through?"

[The Royal Speech had been rich in legislative promise.—*Feb. 20.*]

The First Parliament of King Edward the Seventh. 18

[*Feb. 20.*]

"A Gentleman of All Temperance."

Measure for Measure, Act III., Sc. 2.

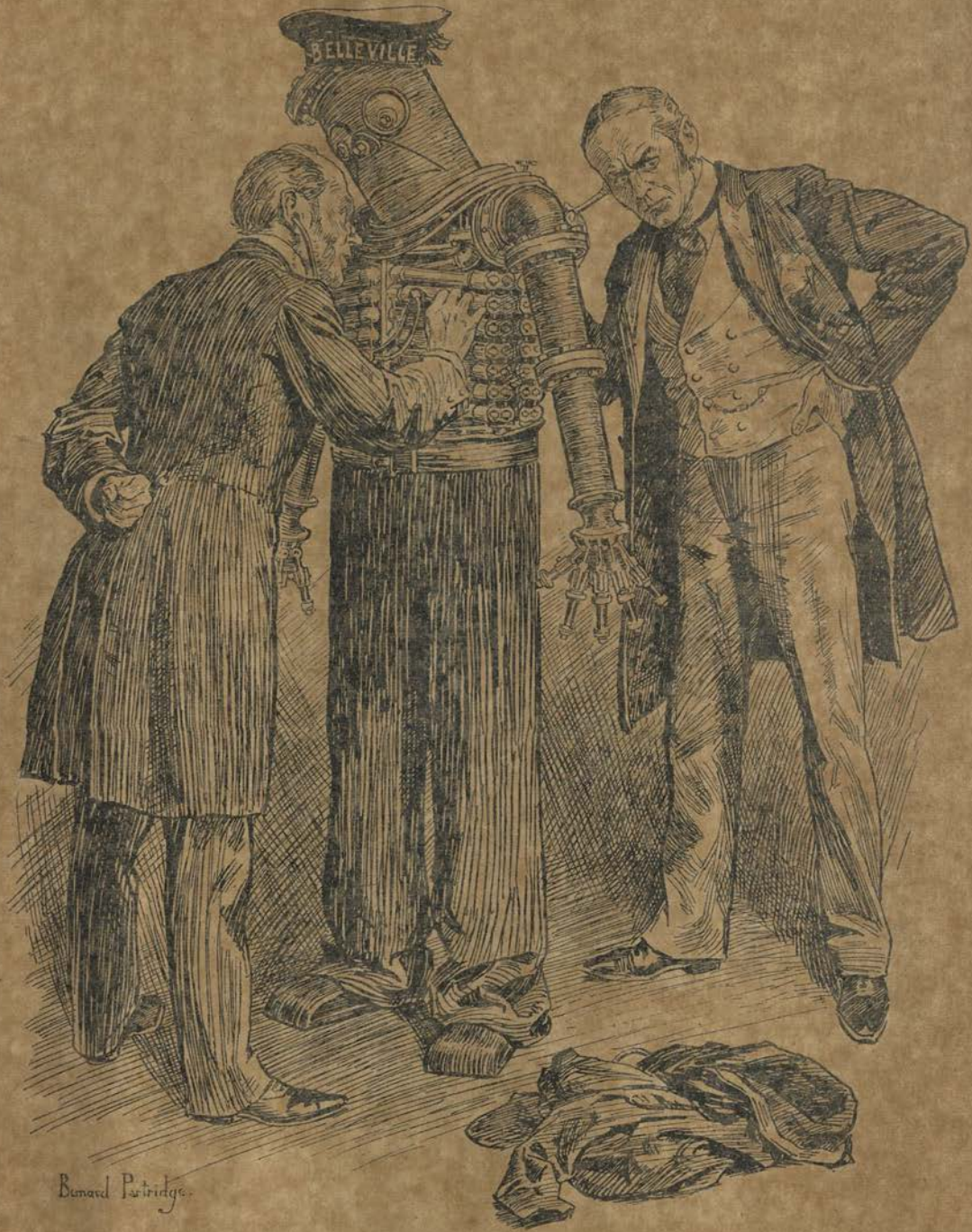
SIR WILFRID LAWSON (WITH HIS FAVOURITE, AND, UNDER CERTAIN CONDITIONS, HARMLESS BEVERAGE, ALLUDING TO THE BEER-DRINKER). "'I would have him poisoned with a pot of ale!'—AHEM!—Shakspeare!"

(*Vide Henry the Fourth*, Part 1, Act 1, Sc. 3.)

[Recent cases at Manchester of arsenical poisoning in beer had given rise to a debate in Parliament.—*Feb 20.*]

Which Will He Drop On?

[Speculation was rife as to the means the Chancellor of the Exchequer would adopt to raise the supplementary taxation.—*Feb. 27.*]



"When Doctors Disagree," &c.

First Expert. "I'm afraid there's something very wrong with his 'tubes.'"
Second Expert. "Not a bit of it! He's as sound as a bell!"

[The Belleville boilers in use in the Navy had been strongly criticised.—*Feb. 27.*]

Jack Bull and the Beanstalk.

[The national expenditure was rapidly increasing, and the end could not be foreseen.—*Mar. 6.*]

ROYAL ASIAT

Free Quarters.

WELSH DRAGON (INSINUATINGLY). "Look you now, chentlemen, coult you not make room for ME in your little party? Am I not a tragon and a prother whateffer?"

(Wales desired an equality of heraldic recognition with the other divisions of the United Kingdom.—*Mar. 6.*)

"Arms and the Man."

JOHN BULL (TO THE RIGHT HON. ST. JOHN BRODRICK, MINISTER FOR WAR). "You're not a soldier, but according to my system you've got to carry this; and don't let me catch you trying to shift it on to anybody else's shoulders!"

[The administration of the War Office had been warmly debated in the House of Lords.—*Mar. 13.*]

The Magic Carpet.

[On March 16th the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall and York started on their long voyage to the "King's Dominions beyond the Seas."—*Mar. 13.*]

Quite at Home.

British and German Allies. "Hi! What are you doing there?"

Russian Cossack. "I'm the man in possession! Are you going to turn me out?"

Both (hesitating). "N-N-No. No. We only asked."

Russian Cossack. "Then now you know." [*Goes on smoking.*

[Russia had not evinced any immediate intention of evacuating Manchuria.—*Mar. 20.*]

Growing Boys.

MASTER JACK. "Please, Ma, aren't I going to have a nice new suit, like Tommy?"

MRS. BRITANNIA. "No, dear. Tommy's old suit was so worn out that he HAD to have a new one; but it cost me such a lot of money that I'm afraid we'll have to make yours do as it is for a bit."

[The Army Estimates were three times the amount of the Navy Estimates.—*Mar. 20.*]

A Vain Appeal.

[Lord Kitchener's peace overtures to General Botha were not favourably received by the Boer leader.—*Mar. 27.*]

"Paws Off!"

[Japan, it was understood, was prepared to forcibly resist any Russian occupation of Korea.—*Mar. 27.*]

The House and the Census.

Mr. Punch (*the* Enumerator). "Who is master here?"

Irish Party. "Sure it's myself! I'm the master here."

The Enumerator. "Who slept here last night?"

Irish Party. "Divil a one! I kept the whole house awake with my shindy!"

[The conduct of the Irish Party in Parliament at this time had been severely criticised.—*Apr. 3.*]

31

Haunted.

[There was wide-spread discontent among the labouring classes in Russia, and a revolutionary propaganda appeared imminent.—*Apr. 3.*]

A Great Opportunity.

Art (to London). "Excuse the interference of a comparative stranger, but I do hope you may succeed in getting something worthy of a great city and a great Queen."

(The announcement that five architects only were to prepare designs for the National Memorial caused considerable dissatisfaction. *Apr. 16.*)

Something to Go on With!

SIR MICHAEL HICKS-BEACH (JUBILANT, AFTER FORAGING). "Aha! Look what I've got for you!"

[The Chancellor of the Exchequer had in his previous Budget under-estimated the revenue by £2,800,000.—*Apr. 10.*]

Discarded.

FASHION (TO "MR. BRIDGE"). "Come along, partner! That dear old Mister Whist is such a bore! He is so VIEUX JEU!"

[The new game of Bridge had become very popular.—*Apr. 17.*]

"A Little Bit of Sugar for the Bird" (?)

[It was anticipated that the Chancellor of the Exchequer would propose a levy of a halfpenny per pound on sugar.—*Apr. 24.*]

"Pay! Pay! Pay!"

MASTER JOHN BULL. "I've put a lot of pennies into this machine, and I haven't got anything out. But"—(WITH DETERMINATION)—"I'm going on till I DO!"

[As a result of the increased war expenditure there was a deficit of £55,000,000.—*Apr. 24.*]

"Ping Pong";

Or, "A Game that he does understand."

[The wily Chinaman was holding his own diplomatically against the great European Powers.—*Apr. 24.*]

The Black Man's Burden.

KING COAL. "What! Ask me to subscribe a shilling! Why, they'll ruin me!!"

[An export duty of 1s. per ton had been imposed on coal by the new Budget.—*May 1.*]

"Welcome, Little Strangers!"

DELIGHT OF FATHER THAMES ON SEEING HOW "THE SAMLETS ARRIVED, HAVING SUSTAINED THE TRYING JOURNEY FROM UXBRIDGE WITHOUT SHOWING ANY SIGNS OF FATIGUE."—"TIMES," APRIL 24.

[The Thames Salmon Association sent a consignment of samlets in the hope of creating a salmon fishery in the Thames.—*May 1.*]

Cheaper in the End.

Recruiting-Sergeant Brodrick. "You're a likely looking pair of fellows. You ought to join the Colours!"

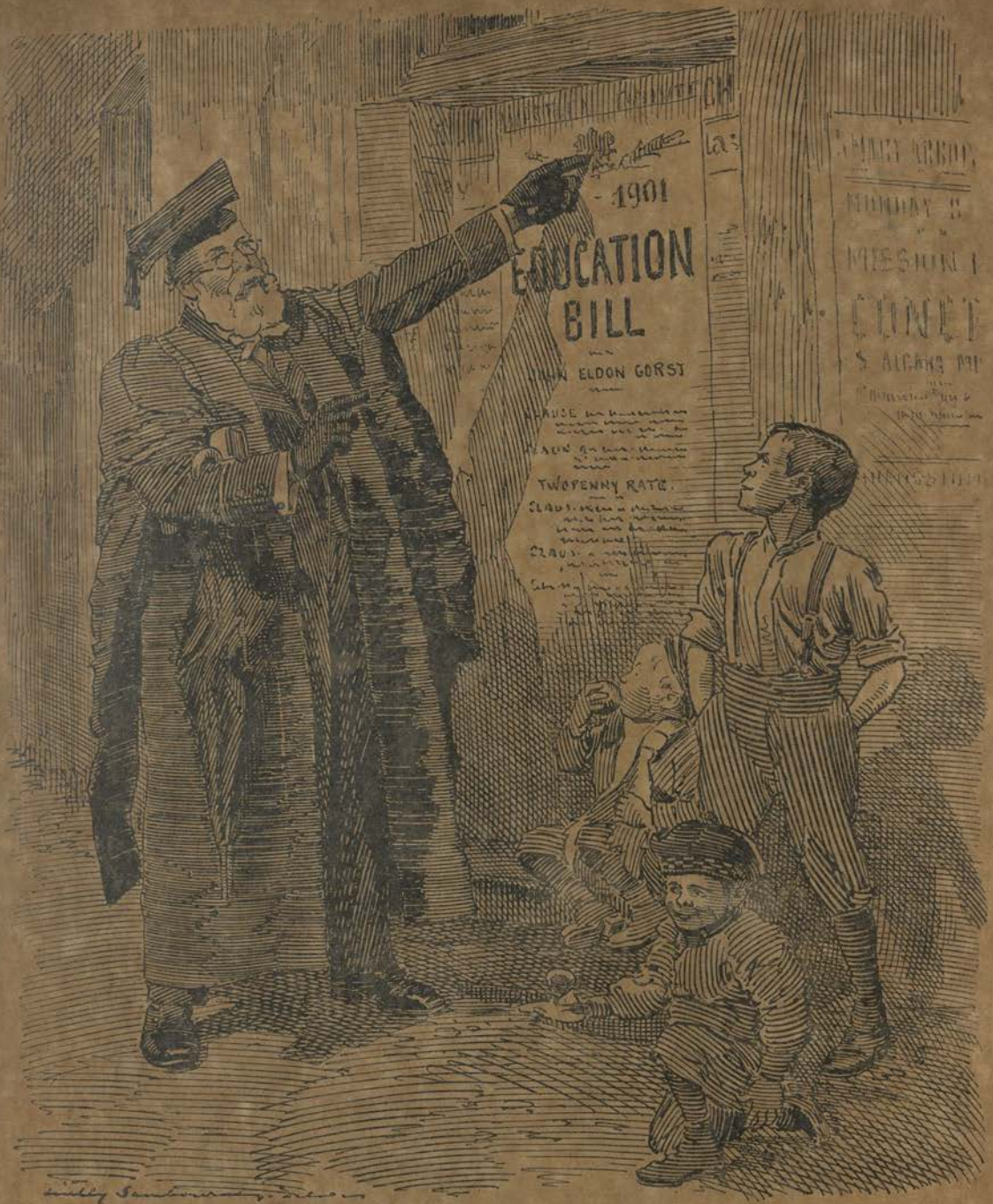
Agricultural Labourer and Mechanic (both). "So we would, Guv'nor, if you'd make soldiering worth our while."

[The soldier's pay compared unfavourably with that obtainable in the unskilled labour market.—*May 8.*]

Jonathan Shopping.

JOHN BULL. "Now, my little man, what can I do for you?"
MASTER JONATHAN. "Wal, guess I'll buy the whole store!"

[American capitalists had purchased the Leyland line of shipping.—*May 8.*]



The Raw Material.

The Right Hon. Sir John E. Gorst, Q.C., M.P. "You've a great career before you, my little man! Under my new scheme there is nothing to prevent you from being Senior Wrangler, or President of the Royal Society, or even—ahem!—Vice-President of Committee of Education!"

Uneducated Urchin. "Garn! Who are you gettin' at?"

[The Government Education Bill was introduced by Sir John Gorst on May 7th.—*May 15.*]

The Last Wicket.

KITCHENER (CAPTAIN AND WICKET-KEEPER). "He has kept us in the field a deuce of a time; but we'll get him now we've closed in for catches!"

[The new system of sweeping columns inaugurated by Lord Kitchener was beginning to show successful results.—*May 15.*]

The Government Clock.

Mr. John Bull. "Hum! Seems to have been losing a bit in the last few weeks!"

[Lord Salisbury's Government was losing popularity owing to the long continuance and heavy expense of the war.—*May 22.*]

Scene from King Henry the Fourth.

(Part I., Act 2, Scene IV.)

Dramatis Personæ.

Falstaff . Lord Salisbury. *Prince Henry* . Winston Churchill. *Poins* . Conservative Press.

Falstaff. "Call you that backing of your friends? A plague upon such backing!"

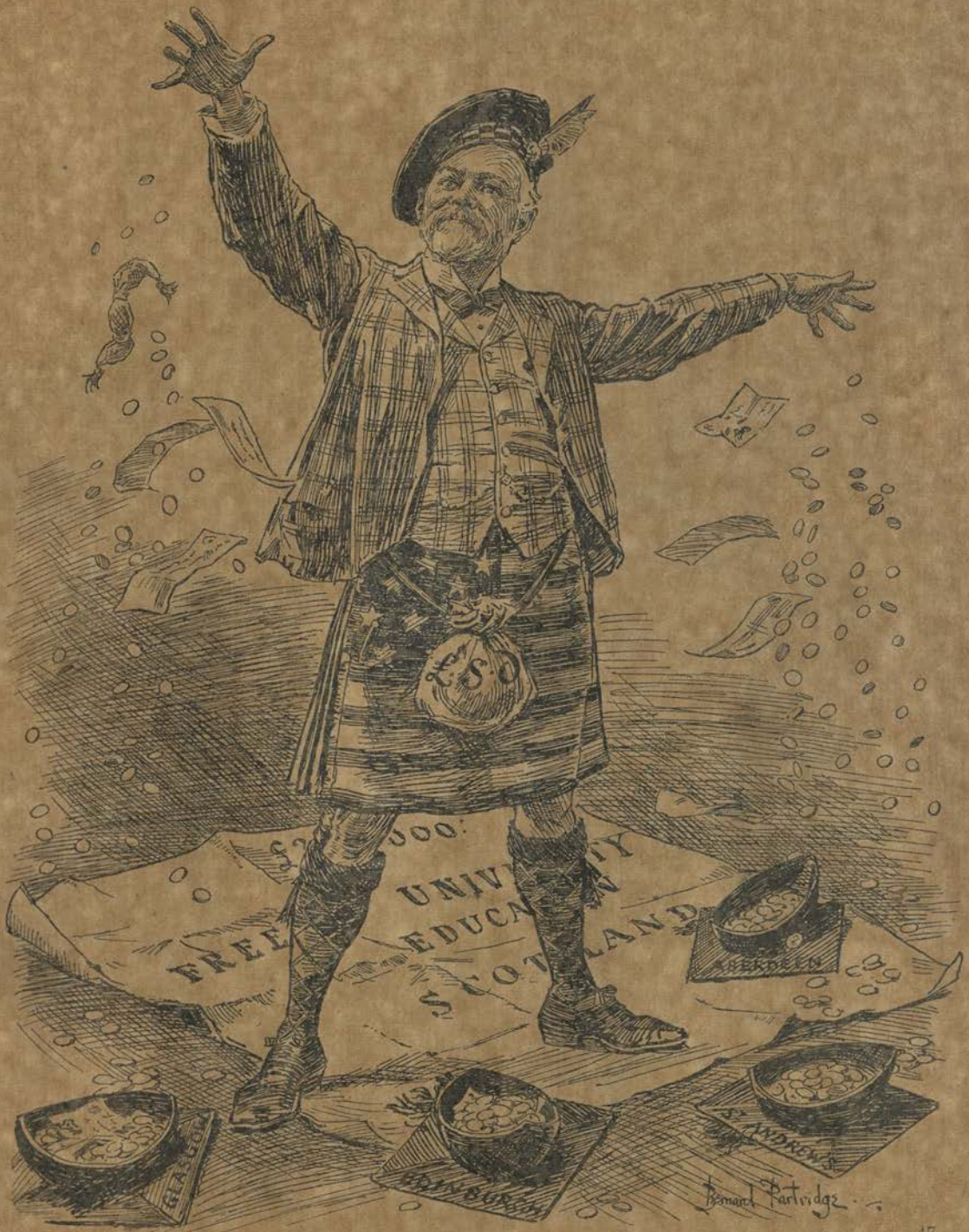
[Mr. Brodrick's Army Reform Scheme was more powerfully criticised from the Conservative side than from the Opposition benches.—*May 22.*]

Claiming Acquaintance.

Miss Economy. "I see you've forgotten me, Sir Michael."

Sir Michael Hicks-Beach. "Um! I seem to remember your face. But it is so long since we met!"

[An unsuccessful attempt had been made to induce the Chancellor of the Exchequer to recast his Budget.—*May 29.*]



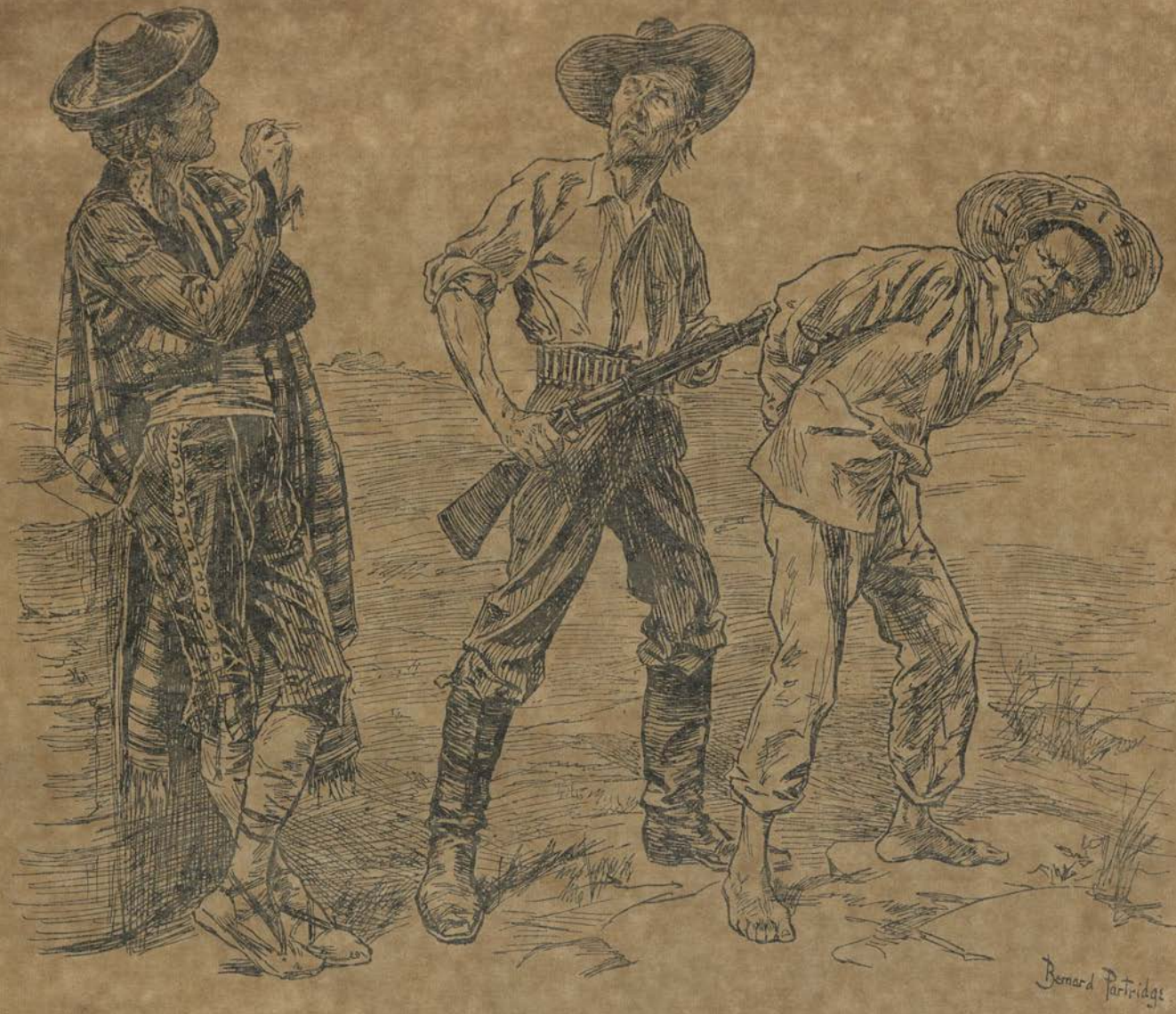
The MacMillion.

[Mr. Carnegie had given £2,000,000 in aid of the work of the Scottish Universities.—*May 29.*]

"The Old Firm."

Dowager Empress of China (to Old Li Hung Chang). "They said we were wrong 'uns, did they? Tried to shift us! But we're back in the old place in spite of 'em."

[The Chinese Government had agreed to pay the indemnity demanded, but the return of the Imperial Court to Pekin was still indefinitely postponed.—*June 5.*]



"Mauvais Sujet."

SPAIN. "Caramba! Amigo Jonathan, your new citizen looks happy!"

JONATHAN. "'Citizen'! Not much. Guess I'll have to make a SUBJECT OF HIM!"

[The Supreme Court at New York had decided that the Philippines were not entitled to organise themselves into States, and apply for admission into the Union.—*June 5.*]

ROYAL BOMB BRANCH OF THE ABIAT

50

War Office History Repeats Itself.

RIGHT HON. MR. BRODRICK (*to* CANADA). "In view of the present—er—promising—um—outlook in South Africa, I can now afford to refer you to our minute of October, '99, to the effect 'no mounted men need apply.'"

[The Government had again declined the assistance of mounted men from our Colonies. *June 12.*]

"So Say All of Us!"

JOHN BULL (TOAST-MASTER). "My Lords and Gentlemen, pray charge your glasses. Bumpers! The toast is 'Sir John Tenniel'!"

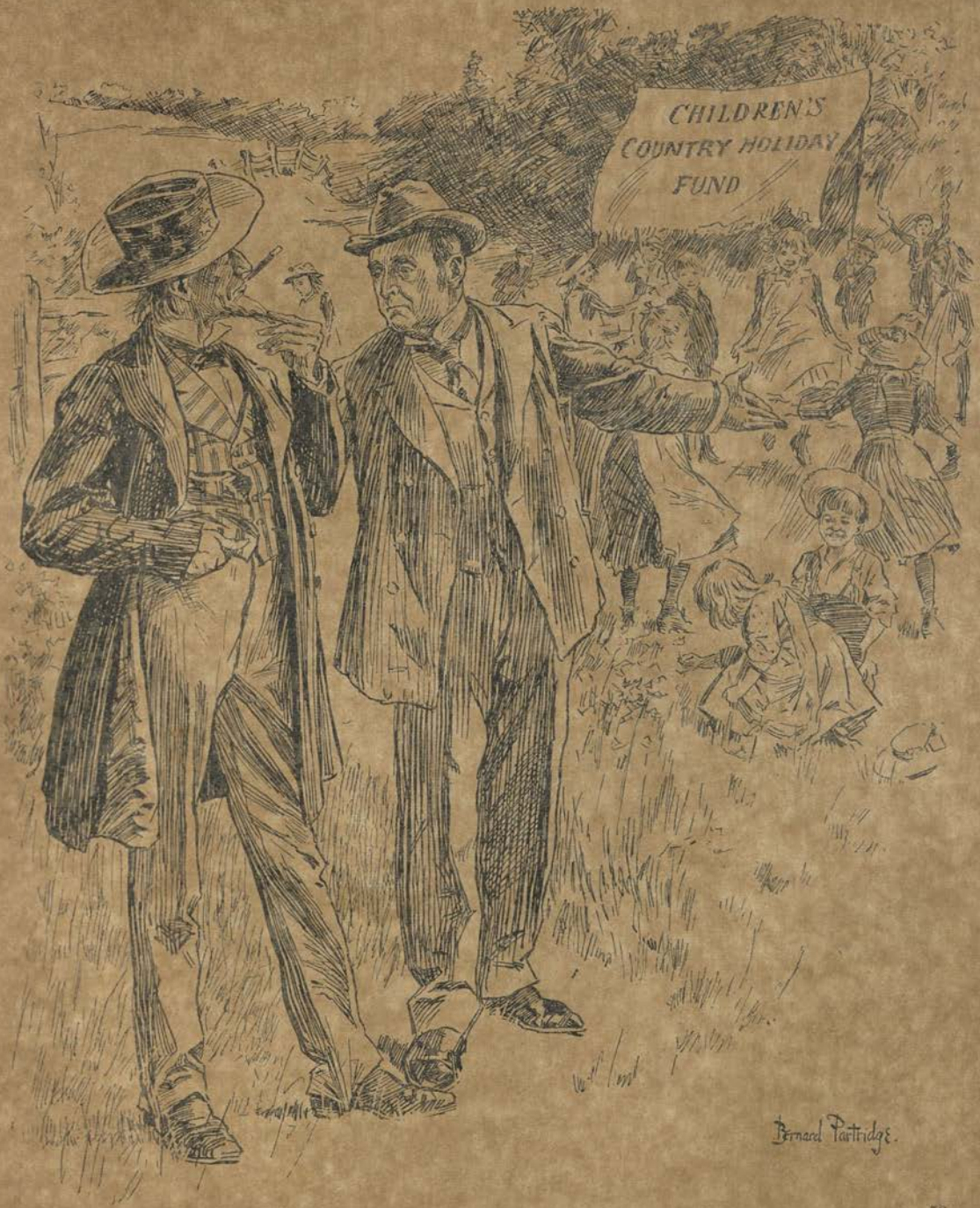
[Sir John Tenniel was entertained on June 12th at a Banquet presided over by Mr. Balfour.—*June 12.*]

109459

A Soul above Business.

GENERAL MUDDLE. "Good Gad, Sir! What! Run the War Office on business principles!! Hope we haven't come to THAT yet."

[The Cartoon is suggested by a Report which advocated the reconstruction of the War Office.—*June 19.*]



Reciprocity.

MR. CHOATE. "Say, Jonathan, you've been going around lately showing the Britishers how to run their business: seems to me HERE's something where you might take a notion or two from THEM."

[The U.S. Ambassador, at a meeting in aid of the Children's Country Holidays Fund, commended the English system of placing children in cottages.—*June 19.*]

Piping Times of Peace.

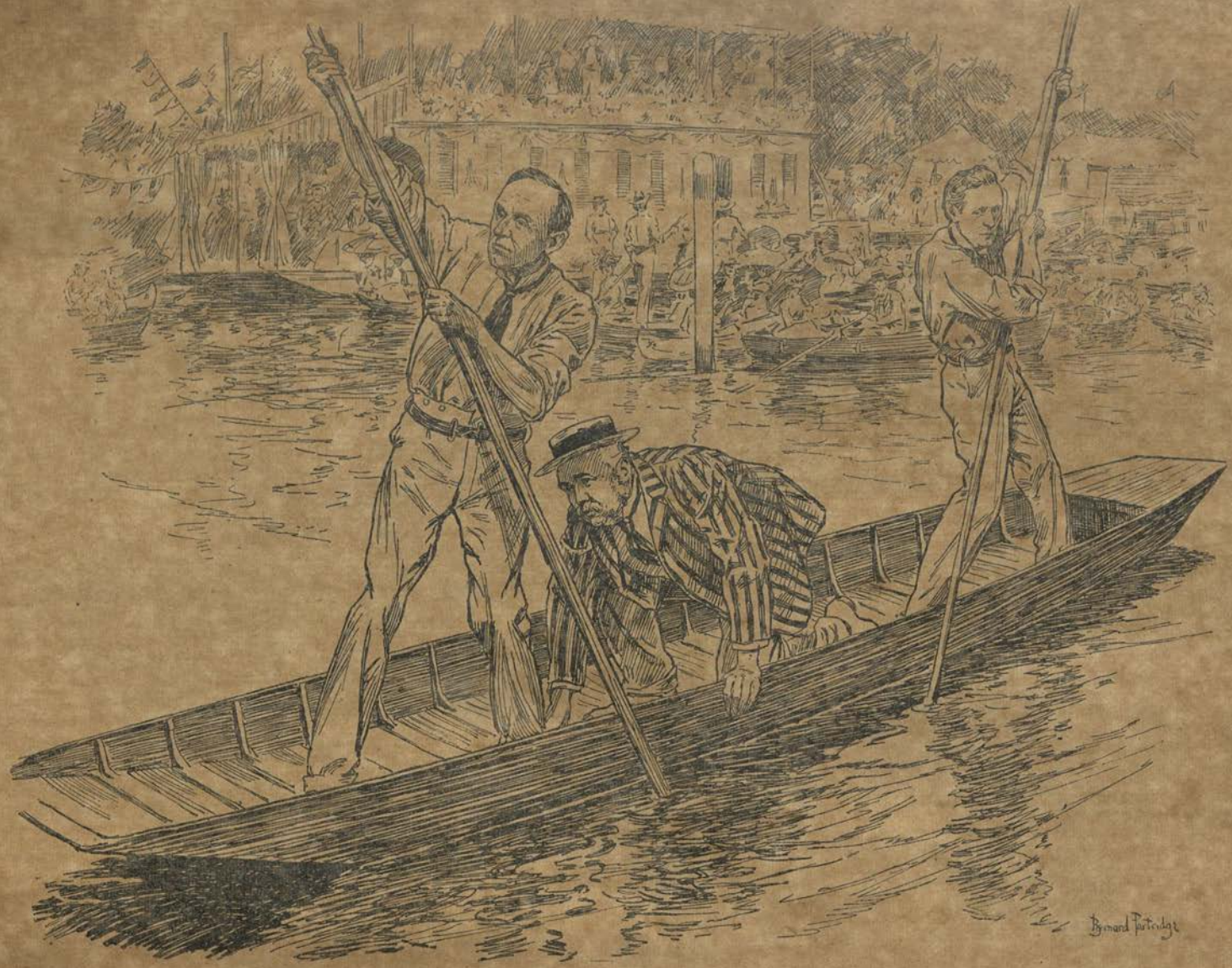
Dame Harcourt. "Aha! At last he is playing something distinctly resembling an air."

[Mr. Asquith protested against the pro-Boer policy advocated by Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman and Sir William Harcourt.—*June 26.*]

The Lazy Dog.

PROFESSOR A. J. BALFOUR (WITH FOUR-LINE WHIP). "I don't ask anything original. But, hang it, you might go through the simple old trick!"

[The absence of Unionist members from the Division lobbies had caused a serious falling off in the Ministerial majorities.—*July 3.*]



Opposite Poles.

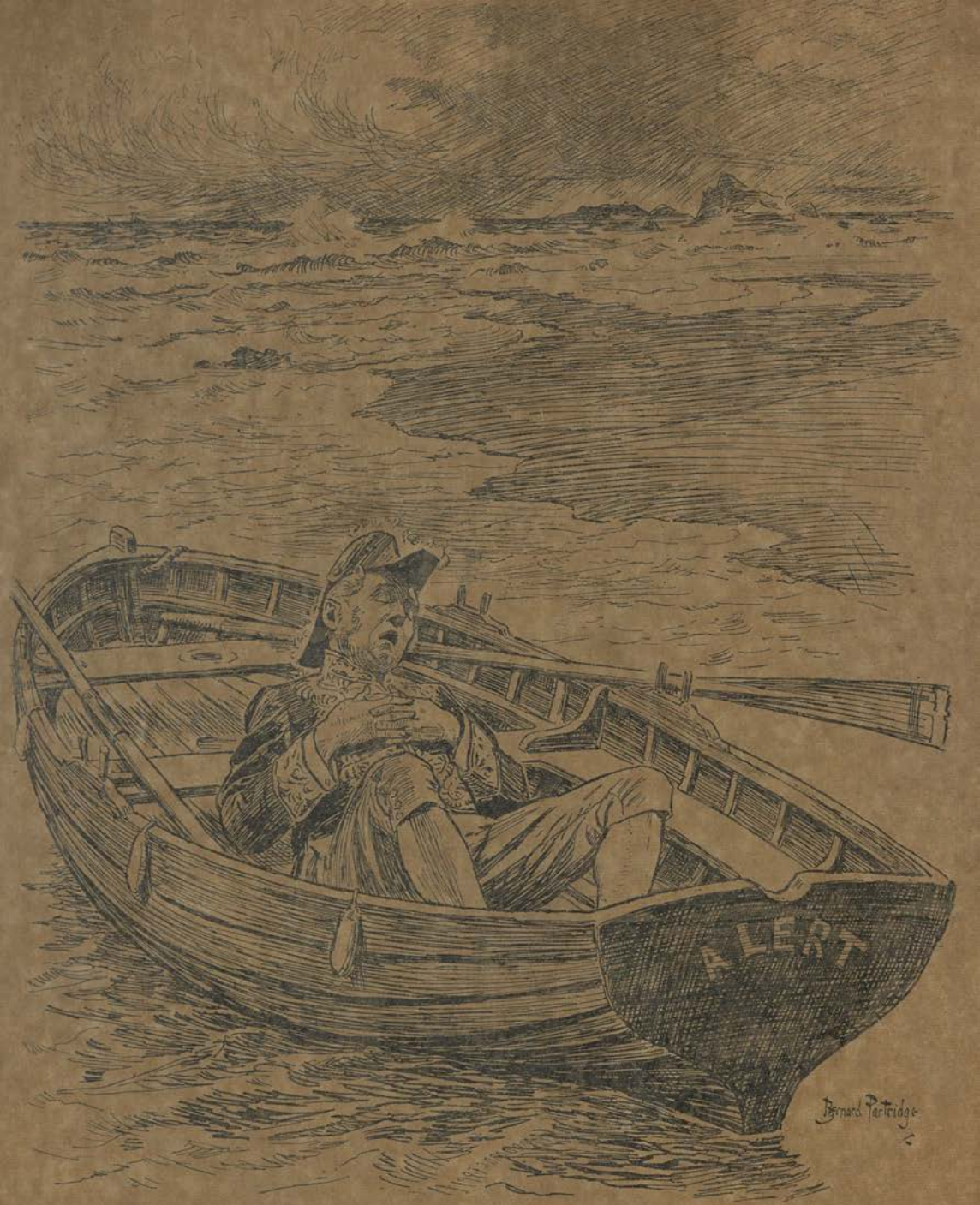
SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN (TO MR. JOHN MORLEY). "Maybe I'm wrong; but I think YOUR end's going best."

[The political views held by Mr. John Morley and Mr. Asquith were very pronounced, whilst those of Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman were still undecided.—*July 3.*]

Dirty Weather!

MRS. LIBERAL PARTY (EVIDENTLY *SO* COMFORTABLE). "I do—assure you—Captain Bannerman—we have every—confidence—in you!"

[Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman's political speeches were not productive of confidence in his leadership. *July 10.*]



"Lazily, Lazily, Drowsily, Drowsily!"

ADMIRALTY OPTIMIST (MURMURING TO HIMSELF—MOMENTARILY AWAKING). "Three new battle-ships—pretty names—six cruisers—ten destroyers—soon ready—plenty of time—all right. Mediterranean——" (DROPS OFF AGAIN FOR ANOTHER "FORTY WINKS.")

[The statements by Lord Selborne and Mr. Arnold Forster as to the efficiency of the Navy were not wholly satisfactory.—*July 10.*]

A United Front.

Right Hon. Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman (after a successful effort). "Well, thank goodness, I've got the two sides to meet!"

[Notwithstanding the split in the Liberal Party, a vote of confidence in their leader had been recently passed.—*July 17.*]

"The Giddy Gorst."

DR. PUNCH (HEAD MASTER, SEVERELY). "Someone wants the Birch,—and it's not the Boy!"

[Sir John Gorst's Education Bill was regarded as an attack on the Board Schools.—*July 17.*]

The "Deus in Machinâ."

LORD ROSEBERY. "H'm, I see you are in difficulties, Madam. For myself, I shall not voluntarily re-enter the water; but I will give you a few elementary hints on the natatory art."

[Lord Rosebery, in a letter addressed to the City Liberal Club, explained his views on the Liberal imbroglio.—*July 24.*]

A Dull Innings.

UMPIRE MR. PUNCH (TO HIMSELF). "WELL, if they don't score off THIS sort of bowling, they MUST be a feeble lot!"

[The weak attacks of Sir William Harcourt and others on the Finance Bill were easily answered by the Government.—*July 24.*]

The End of the Parliamentary "Flat" Season.

ARTHUR BALFOUR (THE JOCKEY). "No field against me! but I can't get him even to walk over! it must be his dinner hour."

[The Parliamentary Session had been unusually dull, owing, it was alleged, to the non-attendance of Members. *July 31.*]

64

Re-Engaged.

ALFRED THE PARNASSIAN CIRCUS-RIDER (TO PEGASUS). "I've got the job again! Come up, Peggy! Houp-là!" *(sings)*

"'Tis I would be the Laureate bold,
With a butt of sherry
To keep me merry
And nothing to do but to pocket the gold!"—*Bon Gaultier's Ballads.*

[Mr. Alfred Austin had been re-appointed to the post of Poet Laureate.—*July 31.*]

"Parting is Such Sweet Sorrow!"

LI HUNG CHANG (AT THE OPEN DOOR). "Well, Gentlemen, if you MUST be going—my master will be so sorry to have missed you—you have ALL got your I.O.U.'s!"

[Arrangements were made for the departure of the allied troops from Pekin, but it was still doubtful in what way the indemnity would be raised.—*Aug. 7.*]

Bernard Partridge.

Double Entente Cordiale.

FRENCH MATHURIN. "Tiens, mon ami! So you have now a naval war also!"

BRITISH TAR. "Oh, but that's only against ourselves!"

F. M. (POLITELY). "Ah! How fortunate!"

B. T. (ASIDE). "'Ullo! 'As 'e been readin' about the boilers?"

[The Naval Manœuvres were now in full swing. Earlier in the year the boilers in use in the Navy had been freely criticised.—*Aug. 7.*]

The Chief Mourners.

[The Empress Frederick of Germany and Princess Royal of England died on August 5th.—*Aug. 14.*]

The New Procedure.

A. J. Balfour. "There! I think we've tinkered it up all right for the rest of this run."

Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman. "I daresay, Arthur; but you'll have to overhaul it thoroughly before the next trip."

[Mr. Balfour's resolution enforcing a system of closure by classified groups had been opposed by Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman.—*Aug. 14.*]

Hope Deferred.

COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF S. A., LORD KITCHENER (READING LATEST NEWS FROM ENGLAND). "House up! Grouse plentiful! Yacht-racing in full swing! I wonder when WE shall get our holiday?"

The war was still proceeding, and there was no present prospect of the withdrawal of our troops.—*Aug. 21.*]

The Uncommercial Traveller.

Mr. Punch. "Now, Mr. Bull, wake up! You'll have to keep your eye on that chap. He's always at it, speaks their languages, and knows their money."

John Bull. "Pooh! My goods are better than his!"

Mr. Punch. "I daresay—but you've got to make them understand it!"

(British trade with the East was declining, owing to the apathy of our manufacturers. The Germans were shrewder in their business methods.—*Aug. 21.*)

A Happy Return.

MADAME LA RÉPUBLIQUE. "Ah, Nicholas, mon bien-aimé, I KNEW you'd come at last, if I only kept on asking you!"

[It was announced that the Emperor of Russia would shortly visit France to witness the Autumn Manœuvres.—*Aug. 28.*]

The Great Trussed; or, The American Gulliver.

[The Steel Trust workmen in America having struck, a conference of Labour Union leaders had been held to devise means for assisting them.—*Aug. 28.*]

——tinople!

PADISHAH. "Well, they didn't do much to China WHEN THEY WERE ALL TOGETHER: so I don't think I need worry myself about ONE of them!"

[Relations between France and Turkey were very strained, and the French Ambassador had left Constantinople.—*Sept. 4.*]

74

"Home, Sweet Home!"

British Paterfamilias. "Well, if it doesn't run to a foreign trip this year, we seem pretty happy at home!"

[Many causes had combined to keep the British Tourist in England.—*Sept. 4.*]

A Matter of Business.

THE CZAR. "Well, goodbye, my dear fellow. I've got some one waiting to see me."
KAISER WILHELM. "Not a moneylender, I hope?"
THE CZAR. "H'm! I'm afraid not."

[There was a prevalent idea that the Czar's visit to France was not wholly unconnected with money matters.—*Sept. 11*]

A Short Memory.

Shade of Bismarck (to German Pressman). "You write of British 'brutalities,' my friend. Have you forgotten your Bismarck so soon?"

[An allusion to the harsh measures adopted by the Germans during the war in 1870-71.—*Sept. 11.*]

ROYAL BOMB
BRANC
OF TH
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The Wolves of Anarchy.

[The murderous attempt on the life of President McKinley had caused a strong outburst of feeling against anarchists in the United States.—*Sept. 18.*]

"The Rough Rider."

With Mr. Punch's best wishes to President Roosevelt.

[In the Spanish-American War the Rough Riders organised by Roosevelt had done splendid service.—*Sept. 25.*]

"To be Well Shaken."

JOHN BULL (*to* LORD SALISBURY). Look here! wake up! I want this war over! You tell me what more *I* can do, and I'll do it!"

[The Government were blamed for their lethargy and the want of energetic efforts to end the war.—*Oct. 2.*]

The Reverse of the Medal!

OR, PAY DEFERRED MAKETH THE HEART SICK.

RECRUITING-SERGEANT BRODRICK. "Now, my man, you look hard up. Why don't you join the Imperial Yeomanry?"

EX-YEOMAN. "Thank'ee, I've been there before, and haven't got my money yet! Just going to pop my medal!"

[Cases had occurred in which the Yeomanry who had returned from the war were unable to obtain the pay due to them.—*Oct. 9.*]

Mutual Advantage.

JOHN BULL (TO THE NEW AMEER, HABIBULLAH). "Your father and I were very good friends, my boy, and if you want the best advice, you will know where to come for it."

[The late Ameer of Afghanistan died on the 3rd of October, and was succeeded by his eldest son, Habibullah Khan.—*Oct. 16.*]

Self-Complacency; or, The Dormouse and the Lion.

Dormouse Rosebery. "I daresay I could help him out if I liked. But, after all, he's big enough to do it himself" (*yawns*), "if he would only wake up!"

[*Goes to sleep again.*

[In an address at Birmingham on national culture, Lord Rosebery said that complacency was a fatal gift.—*Oct. 23.*]

Suspicious Characters Seen Recently in Downing Street.

THE ABOVE GENTLEMEN, UNDER VARIOUS DISGUISES, ARE NO DOUBT WORKING THEIR WAY GRADUALLY TO THE COUNCIL CHAMBER.

[Sir Edward Grey, referring to a statement that the Cabinet sometimes met unknown to the public, said that perhaps some of them had been in London in disguise.—*Oct. 23.*]

A Meet in a Fog.

LORD SALISBURY (MASTER OF THE CABINET HOUNDS, TO HUNTSMAN). "Well, Arthur, we can't see an inch beyond our noses; but nobody can say we haven't met!"

[The Cabinet met on the 28th of October for the first time after the Recess.—*Oct. 30.*]

"Round the World and Home Again!"

[The *Ophir*, with the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall and York on board, arrived off the Isle of Wight on November 1st.—*Oct. 30.*]

The Guildhall Banquet;

OR, THE SPEECH REHEARSED.

Lord Burleigh . Lord Salisbury. *Sneer* . Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman. *Puff* . Mr. Joseph Chamberlain.

(*Lord Burleigh comes forward, shakes his head, and exit.*)

Sneer. "Now, pray what did he mean by that?"

Puff. "Why, by that shake of the head he gave you to understand that even though they had more justice in their cause and wisdom in their measures, yet, if there was not a greater spirit shown on the part of the people, the country would at last fall a sacrifice to the hostile ambition of their enemies."

The Critic, Act III., Scene 1.

[Lord Salisbury's speech at the Guildhall Banquet was anxiously awaited.—*Nov. 6.*]

"Corona Finit Opus."

MARY ANNE. "When are they going to start this Army Reform they talk such a lot about?"
PRIVATE ATKINS. "Why, bless your 'eart, IT'S ALL DONE! Look at our new caps!"

[The new Army cap was not favourably received.—*Nov. 6.*]

BLIND. I NEVER CONTEMPLATED THE OFFENCE
TOTALY BLIND, I REQUIER LEEDING.
BLIND: KIND FREND LEED ME TO THE WORE OFF?
I AM A CHILD IN THESE MATTERS

Politically Blind or (Un)Intelligent (Non)Anticipators.

CHAMBERLAIN. SALISBURY. BRODRICK. BALFOUR. LANSDOWNE.

[Mr. John Morley at Arbroath said that the Government, whenever tested, had shown blindness, short-sightedness, and ignorance.—*Nov. 6.*]

The Mitylene March.

(Solo for the French Horn.)

The Sultan. "I don't like solos! Give me the good old-fashioned European Concerto!"

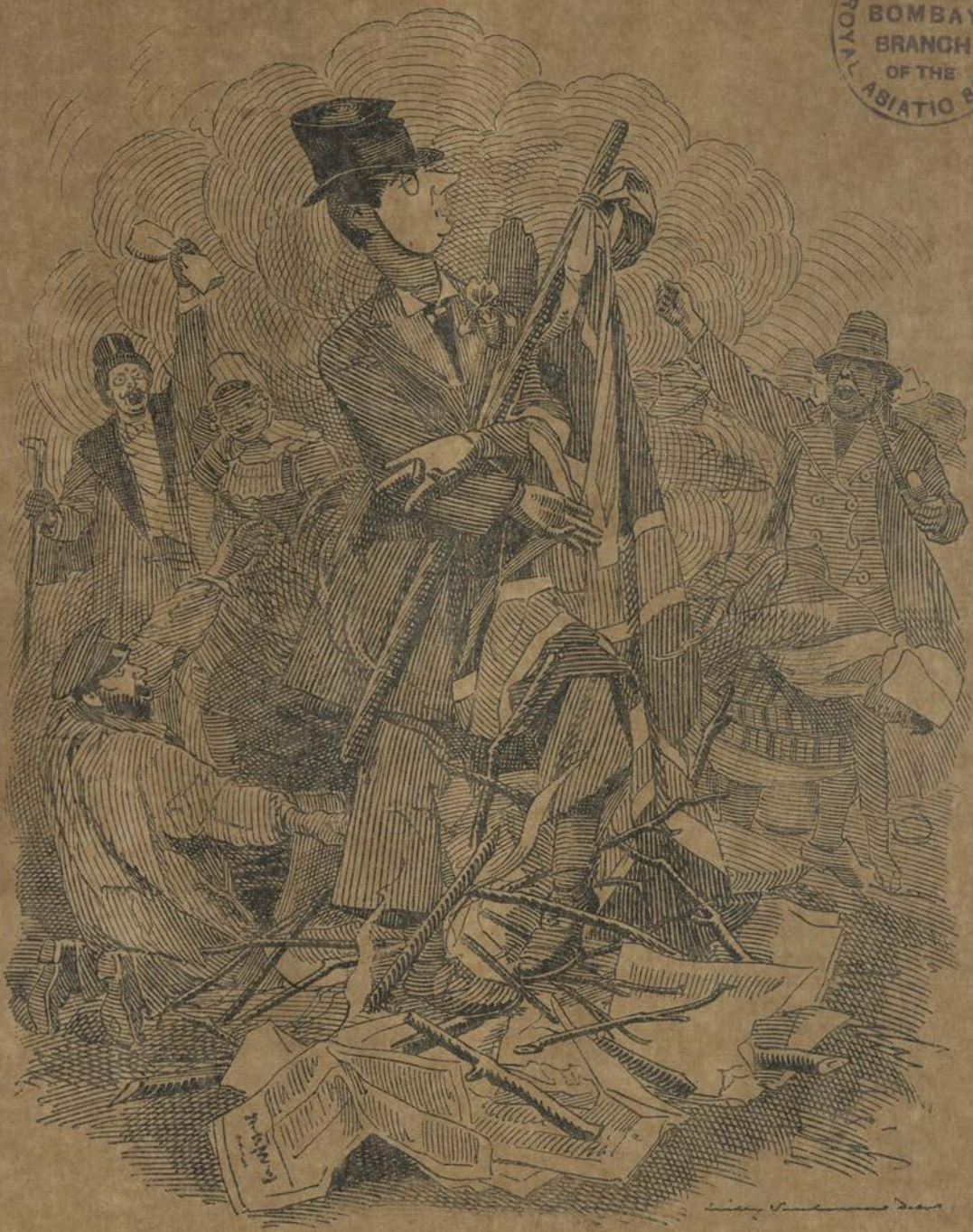
[The demands of France remaining unsettled, the French fleet had occupied the three principal ports of Mitylene.—*Nov. 13.*]

Facing the Fire.

THE MENTMORE CHEF. "Although I am not unaware that a superfluity of culinary assistance is apt to exercise a detrimental effect upon the *consommé*, still——" (*Drops a merry thought into the stock-pot.*)

[Lord Rosebery felt that in the present crisis he ought to put his views into the common stock.—*Nov. 13.*]

LIBRARY OF THE BOMBAY BRANCH OF THE ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY



Dissembled Love.

"It is a matter for congratulation that we have found such a kindly feeling and such a correct attitude on the part of all the Great Powers."—*Lord Salisbury's Speech at the Guildhall.*

It was reported that effigies of the Colonial Secretary had recently been burnt on the Continent. *Nov. 20.*]

Traffic-eotomy.

DR. LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL (TO HIS PATIENT, FATHER LONDON). "Feel a choking sensation, eh? Ah—a bit congested. You smoke too much. What you want is a little system of tubes—quite a simple operation!"

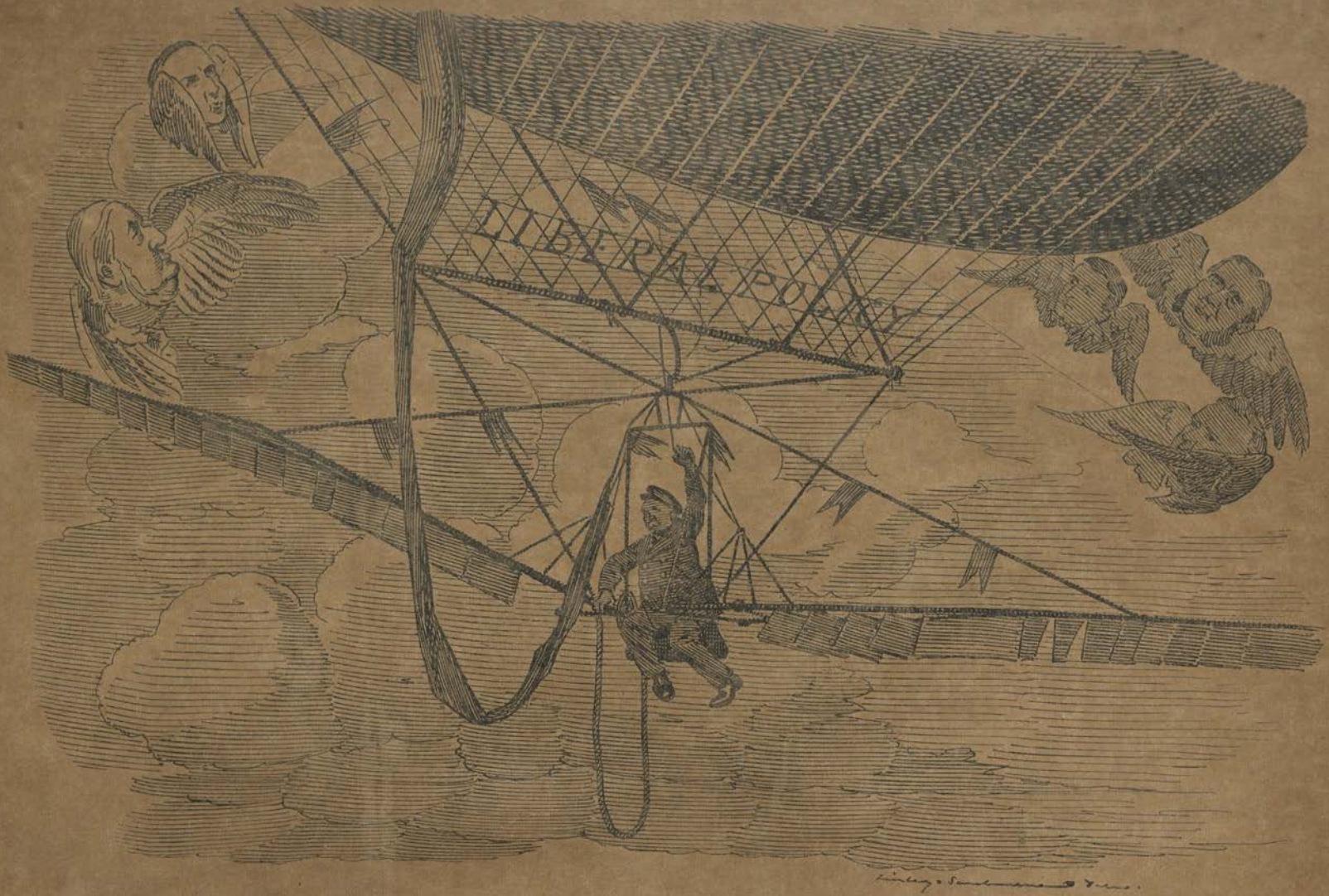
[The London County Council had recommended the construction of tram subways.—*Nov. 20.*]

The Return of the "Little Minister."—A Sequel.

(With apologies to Mr. J. M. Barrie.)

The Rev. Gavin Dishart Rosebery receives back the keys of the "Manse." His reception by the Elders, however, is not exactly of what you would call a unanimous or an uproariously enthusiastic character.

[Lord Rosebery had volunteered to place his services at the disposal of the Liberal Party.—*Nov 20.*]



Cross Currents.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN (*steering*). "For my part, I will do all I can to keep the prow of the ship straight."

Vide his Speech at Plymouth.

[The Liberal Party was so disunited that even a strong leader would have found it difficult to pursue a steady policy.—*Nov. 27.*]

Colonel Jonathan J. Bull;

Or, What John B. may come to.

[An influential American syndicate had submitted a scheme for erecting gigantic office buildings on American lines in the Strand.—*Nov. 27.*]

Preparing for the Speeches.

LORD ROSEBERY. H'm. What can I say about Chamberlain?"

THE RIGHT HON. J. CHAMBERLAIN. "I wonder what Rosebery is going to say about ME?"

[At the luncheon at the Guildhall on December 5th the toast of "The Colonies" was submitted by Lord Rosebery and responded to by Mr. Chamberlain.—*Dec. 4.*]

The Perfidious Sheep-Dog.

SHEEP. "Here, I say, keep him off! Keep him off!"

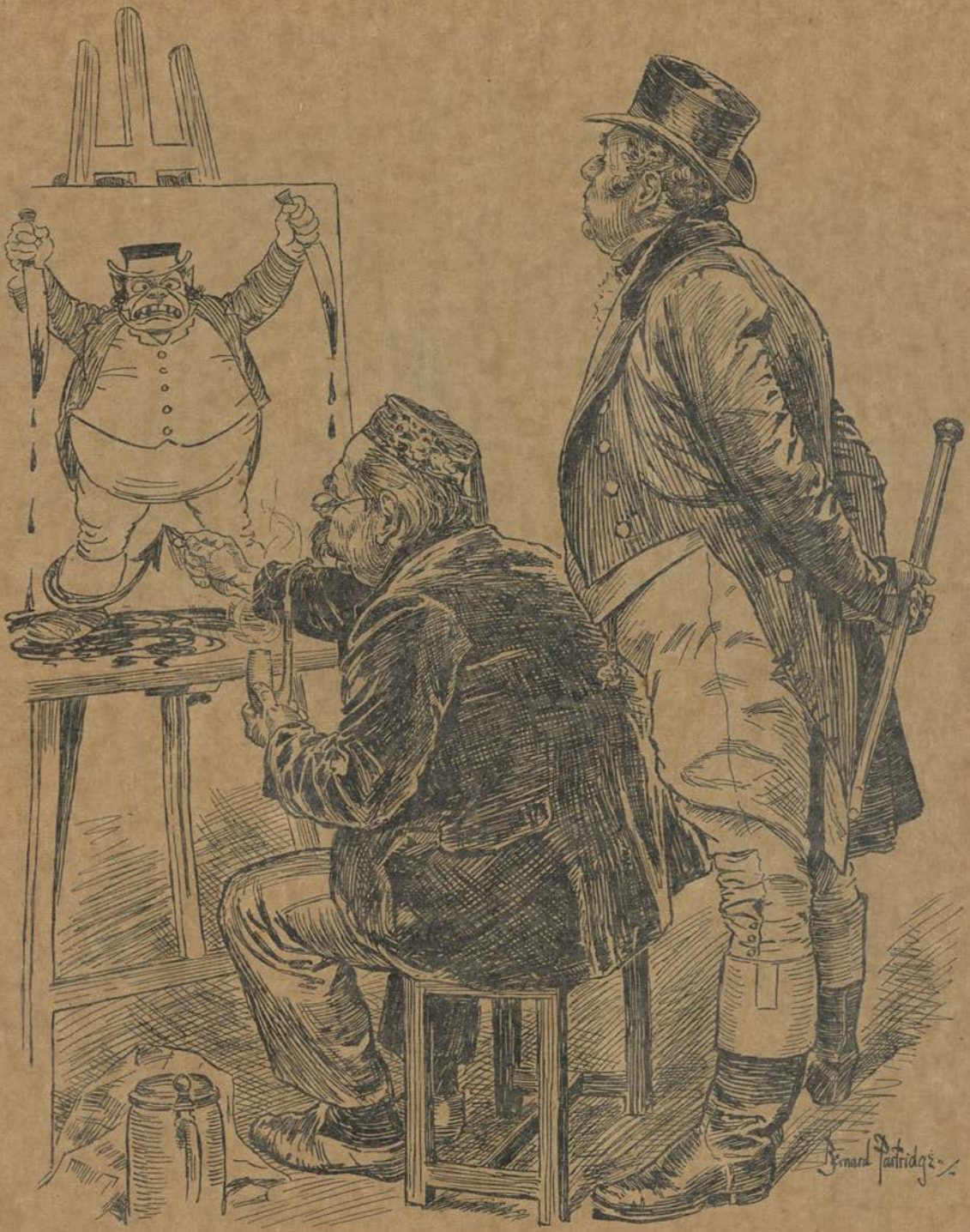
SHEEP-DOG. "'KEEP HIM OFF?' Why, don't you know we've JUST GONE INTO PARTNERSHIP?"

[The Government agreement with the National Telephone Company gave great dissatisfaction to the general public.—*Dec. 4.*]

Her Worst Enemy.

PEACE. "You make such a noise they can't hear my voice."

[The pro-Boer section of the Liberal Party clamoured loudly for impossible terms of peace.—*Dec. 11.*]



Out of Drawing.

MR. BULL. "Here, hang it all, I'm not like THAT! There must be something wrong with those glasses of yours."

[The German press were publishing the grossest calumnies on the character of the British soldier.—*Dec. 11.*]

The Chesterfield Hamlet.

LORD ROSEBERY (*in leading rôle*).

"The 'Party's' out of joint:—O, cursèd spite,
That ever I was 'asked' to set it right!"

Act I., Scene 5, *Mr. Punch's edition.*

[The endeavour to reunite the divided sections of the Liberal Party was indeed a hard task.—*Dec. 18.*]

Prince George and the Dragon.

H.R.H. THE PRINCE OF WALES (TO WELSH DRAGON). "Come to my Arms!"

[The badge of the Red Dragon had, by Royal command, been added to the "achievement" of the Prince of Wales.—*Dec. 18.*]

Christmas on the Veldt.

PRIVATE MARK TAPLEY. "Do better! to be sure we will. We shall all do better. What we've got to do is to keep up our spirits. We shall all come right in the end, never fear."—*Martin Chuzzlewit*, Chap. XXXIII.

Our troops received many welcome and seasonable gifts from home.—*Dec. 25.*]

Partners.

BRITANNIA. "After all, my dear, we needn't trouble ourselves about the others."
COLONIA. "No; we can always dance together, you and I!"

[Owing to the close relations with her Colonies, England was able to regard with equanimity the attitude of the Continental Powers.—*Dec. 25.*]

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BRADBURY, AGNEW, & CO. LD., PRINTERS, LONDON AND TONBRIDGE.

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Punch
Cartoons for the
ar 1901, n.d.

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Observer Research Foundation
on 17 May, 2019